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William S Van Allen 04/15/2002 10:28:05 AM From DB/Inbox: William S Van Allen

Cable Text:

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TELEGRAM

April 14, 2002

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE  
Action: DS  
From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 1003 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: CASC, PREL, ASEC, VE  
Captions: None  
Subject: NEWS ABOUT US CITIZENS IN VENEZUELA  
Ref: None

1. Summary.

Meanwhile, 6 AmCit journalists are trapped at the El Universal building while a crowd of thousands marches through Caracas. Three companies begin evacuation procedures, and the International airport at Maiquetia closes. End summary.

3. Meanwhile, PAS Information Officer received a phone call from a press contact at the El Universal Building on Av. Urdaneta in Caracas at 7:30 p.m. Contact reported that a crowd of "thousands" was moving on Av. Urdaneta toward Miraflores, the Presidential Palace. While the El Universal newspaper evacuated its offices at 6:00 p.m., the rest of the building did not evacuate. Twelve foreign journalists remain at the building, including six Americans.

4. The contact reported that they have no police protection and are unable to get out of the building. He advised that he would call the Embassy to report when they decide to make a move.

5. Frito-Lay evacuated their employees earlier today, and Proctor and Gamble and Conoco are preparing to evacuate theirs as well.

6. Delta flight due in at Caracas at 8:40 p.m. was turned around mid-flight, and the Simon Bolivar International Airport was closed at 7:45 p.m.

SHAPIRO

Additional Addressees:

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1

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 27 APR 2006 200304421

54